

Adrian ISD

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Mike Norrell, Superintendent

Mike Winter, Principal

July 1, 2014

re: FCC proposals affecting rural schools

To Whom It May Concern:

We are a small, rural school with 130 students PK- 12. It is my understanding that the E-Rate funding was designed to support schools like us. The FCC's proposal to allocate portions of this funding on a per-pupil allocation would absolutely cripple us. Currently, we pay over \$30,000 per year for our service; fortunately, the vast majority is funded through E-Rate. I thought that the idea was to make the internet accessible to all, and we have done our homework to select the best service at an affordable price for our students. Our service supports the many computers, laptops, and tablets our teachers, students, and support staff use daily. A major cut in that funding would force us to make drastic changes in our budgeting and what technology we could provide.

I am also concerned that the FCC proposes a five-year timeline for these changes yet only provides funding for the first two years. As currently structured, this plan leaves the E-Rate program in the unsustainable and unacceptable position of siphoning critical funding away from Priority I (basic connectivity) to Priority II (internal connections) of the E-Rate program.

Any conversation truly focused on modernizing and sustaining E-Rate will be focused on programmatic changes to update and improve the program as well as funding to ensure the future availability and success of E-Rate.

We are extremely grateful for the E-Rate funding we are eligible to receive, and losing that funding because we have a small enrollment would be detrimental to our students and put them at a disadvantage with their peers in larger districts. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Norrell', written in a cursive style.

Mike Norrell, Superintendent